

Released when received.

Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

WAGE WAR ON NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

Rabies Among Coyotes Causes Big Live Stock Losses.

Washington, D. C., Depredations of predatory animals accompanied by outbreaks of rabies among them in parts of Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah resulted in the shooting, trapping, and poisoning of over 11,000 coyotes during the last fiscal year by hunters in the employ of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Altogether over 15,000 noxious animals, including wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and bobcats were destroyed. The seriousness of the outbreaks of rabies will be realized when it is stated that more than 60 persons were treated by State authorities of Nevada during the year on account of having been bitten by either wild or domestic animals. The loss of live stock has been very heavy. At Winnemucca, Nevada, a single rabid coyote caused the loss of 27 steers.

During the past year over 250,000 acres of Government and public lands have been covered with poisoned grain for the extermination of ground squirrels. Large areas of private agricultural land also have been cleared of these pests through campaigns conducted by the owners under the direction of representatives of the Biological Survey. Operations have been continued effectively against prairie-dogs, and over a half million acres have been practically cleared of these destructive animals. Improvements which have been made by the bureau

in methods of exterminating prairie-dogs have encouraged large numbers of farmers to destroy them on their lands.

Effective methods of destroying jack rabbits have been devised and the depredations of these animals have been greatly reduced in many localities where they had proved exceedingly destructive. Similarly satisfactory results are being obtained in operations against gophers and moles.

Important experiments have also been conducted and methods devised for the control of seed-eating mammals which work havoc in tree plantations and areas which are being reforested.

LAND CRABS IN FLORIDA.

Experiments to determine economic methods of controlling land crabs were conducted in the vicinity of Cocoanut Grove, Fla. These pests were estimated to have destroyed 60 per cent of the tomato plants of the locality, as well as quantities of other garden truck. They also damage coconut groves by their numerous burrows. It was found that the crabs could be exterminated by introducing 5 or 6 drops of carbon bisulphid into each burrow by means of a long-nozzled oil can and closing the opening by pressure of the foot.

- W -